

1939



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Department

OF THE

Lymm Urban District Council

BY

JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

ALSO THE

ANNUAL REPORT of the Sanitary Inspectors :

DAVID MORT, M.INST. M. & CY. E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

STANLEY CAYTON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

and

JOHN CARTER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.



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LYMM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1939.

Chairman :

MR. S. ACKERLEY, J.P.,
4 Woodside Road, Lymm.

Vice-Chairman :

MR. G. H. PARKER, "Hartwell," Brook Road, Lymm.

Chairman of Sanitary Committee :

MR. J. H. DYE, "Elton," Brook Road, Lymm.

Councillors :

NAME	WARD
MR. J. H. HOLT	Booth's Hill
MR. E. LLOYD	do.
MR. OWEN DAVIES	do.
MR. H. KENZIE	Heatley
MR. N. WORTHINGTON	do.
MR. T. C. CLAYTON	do.
MR. S. ACKERLEY	Lymm
CAPT. A. LINDSAY WATT, J.P., C.C.	do.
MR. J. F. DUGDALE	do.
MR. G. H. PARKER	Statham
MR. J. H. DYE	do.

Clerk to the Council :

MR. T. ASHCROFT.

Public Health Officials :

DR. JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.(LOND.), D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Part Time

MR. D. MORT, M.INST. M. & CY. E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
SURVEY AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

MR. S. CAYTON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
SANITARY AND BUILDING INSPECTOR (Resigned 31st October)

MR. J. CARTER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
SANITARY AND BUILDING INSPECTOR (From 1st November)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LYMM.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fourteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Lymm covering the year 1939.

This was an exceptionally busy year owing to the varied and increased duties connected with the Air Raid Precautions Services together with the Public Health Administration. In both these matters the valuable work of Mr. Stanley Cayton, who resigned his appointment as Sanitary Inspector on October 31st to take up similar duties elsewhere, will not soon be forgotten. His services were deeply appreciated by all concerned.

The Birth Rate for the year, viz., 12.06 is low compared with that for England and Wales, which is 15.0. The Corrected Death Rate, 8.88, is the lowest on record and is considerably lower than that for England and Wales, which is 12.1. The Infant Mortality Rate is 25 against 50 for England and Wales. The Maternal Mortality Rate is nil, against that for England and Wales 2.93. There were 9 deaths from Cancer. The average number for the last 12 years is 9. The average age was 55 for males, 64 for females.

The total for all notified infectious diseases was again very low, being only 19 against 20 in 1938. There were no deaths from these diseases excepting tuberculosis, of which latter there were 2. The infant mortality and notified infectious diseases are both the second lowest on record.

EVACUEES.—Though the Ministry of Health request condensation of this Report, it seems advisable to give some details regarding a matter of such importance as the reception from other areas of 99 mothers, 893 children and 34 staff, and to discuss the question of the effect on the general health of the district. Notes referring to this will be found at the end of my Report.

I wish to thank all members of the Council, the Clerk, Staff, and the Sanitary Inspectors for their willing co-operation, and also those innumerable citizens who rendered such invaluable service in connection with local Air Raid Precaution matters and the reception and billeting of evacuees.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

JAMES BENNETT,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

Area : 4,241 acres.
Rateable Value end of 1939 : £34,908.
" " " " 1938, £34,470.
Product of Penny Rate : £132.
Number of Houses end of 1939 : 1,814.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's Estimate is 5,887 for Birth Rates, and 6,065 for Death and Infectious Disease Rates. On the latter figure the increase is 208.
At the 1931 Census the total was 5,643.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M	F		
Live Births	Legitimate	75	40	35	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939... 12.06
	Illegitimate	4	3	1	
Stillbirths		0	1	0	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 12.23
Deaths		54	28	26	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population 8.88

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total " " "	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	13
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	250
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9
" " Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality
during the year :

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring comment, nor was there any specially noteworthy sickness or invalidity.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LYMM URBAN DISTRICT
for 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH. Civilians only.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	28	26
Influenza	2	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	—
Other Tuberculous diseases	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease	3	6
Diabetes	—	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c... ..	—	1
Heart disease	9	8
Other circulatory diseases	3	2
Bronchitis... ..	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	—	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	—
Other digestive diseases	2	1
Other deaths from violence	1	—
Other defined diseases... ..	3	3
Deaths of Infants } Total	1	1
under 1 year.. } Illegitimate... ..	—	1
Total Births	43	36
Legitimate.	40	35
Illegitimate... ..	3	1

POPULATION : (a) 5,887, (b) 6,065.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES
for the past 10 years in Lymm U.D. :

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Birth										
Rates	15.1	14.9	14.4	15.7	12.3	12.9	13.71	13.76	14.5	12.06
Death										
Rates	12.2	12.3	13.0	13.1	10.6	9.8	10.70	15.45	10.40	8.88
Inf. Mort.										
Rates	34	61	73	21	nil	53	36	43	58	25

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Booth's Hill Ward	13	16	22	24	17
Heatley Ward	16	21	27	14	17
Lymm Ward	17	23	28	17	15
Statham Ward	11	4	15	7	5
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	57	64	92	62	54
	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—see page 1.

CLERICAL ASSISTANCE—Typists services as required.

2.—(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Samples of Milk, Water and Blood.—Public Health Laboratories, York Place, Manchester.

Throat and Nose Swabs.—Warrington Public Health Department.

Tuberculosis Sputum.—Cheshire County Council.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Diseases.—Warrington County Borough.

For Accidents and General Illnesses.—Altrincham Borough Council.

The Ambulance facilities are quite adequate for general purposes.

For War purposes, two Ambulances provided by Cheshire County Council kept at High Bank, Lymm, are available night and day, whilst two adapted Ambulances from trade vehicles are on call for emergencies.

(c) THE DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION maintains one nurse.

(d) INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—This has been converted into a First Aid Post, but the ordinary routine work of the Centre was carried on.

The Annual Report of Health Visitor is as follows :

Number Registered since the start	1332
New Members, 1939	80
Deaths, 1939	2
Total on Register (including 80 New Members)	219
Attendances (Babies and Toddlers)	2389
Consultations (Babies and Toddlers)	796
Number of Evacuees attended	9

The Council is not the Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare.

(e) HOSPITALS.

Infectious Diseases.—Warrington County Borough.

Non-infectious Cases.—Warrington, Altrincham and Manchester Hospitals.

Public Assistance Cases.—Knutsford.

Mental Cases.—Macclesfield.

(f) MORTUARY.—During the year the Public Mortuary was used 14 times. Provision is made for seven bodies.

Provision for War Casualties.—An additional temporary Mortuary has been provided for 20 bodies in view of possible War casualties.

1.—(i) WATER.—The public water supply is from three deep sand-stone wells owned and worked by the Council. There were no new sources or improvement to existing sources and no extension of mains.

The supplies have been satisfactory in quality and quantity excepting that produced from the No. 1 well, which was out of action whilst undergoing alterations.

The water is controlled by bacteriological and chemical examination. Three bacteriological and one chemical examination of the No. 1 well were made with a view to improving the quality. Efforts were still continuing at the end of the year, the well in the meantime not being used.

A chemical and bacteriological examination was made of the Nos. 2 and 3 wells, from which the public drew their supplies, and these were both very satisfactory.

Three bacteriological examinations of private supplies were made. One of these was found to be very unsatisfactory, and the public supply has now replaced the well.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—One hundred yards of new sewers were laid in Agden Park Lane. The drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area are adequate.

2.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The two sewage works were constantly under supervision in order to check the pollution of streams in the area. The two works gave satisfactory effluents to the Lancashire Rivers Board.

3.—(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The number of conversions from the conservancy system to water carriage was 14. About 98 per cent. of the houses in the district are provided with clean water closets, leaving only 36 still on the conservancy system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection of domestic waste, trade waste and street sweepings is carried out by direct labour with one two-ton petrol-driven vehicle. No comprehensive system for the collection of trade refuse under Section 73 Public Health Act, 1936, has been undertaken, but in a few instances contracts exist where large quantities of refuse have to be removed.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.
INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY AND BUILDING INSPECTOR.

NATURE OF INSPECTIONS	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results			REMARKS
		Statut'y	Informal	Notices compl'd with	Out-standing	Legal Pro-ceedings	
GENERAL SANITATION.							
Water Supply... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	
Drainage of Existing Buildings..	67	—	—	—	—	—	
Stables and Piggeries... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Fried Fish Shops	8	—	—	—	—	—	
Canal Boats	7	—	—	—	—	—	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Factories	12	—	—	—	—	—	
Workshops and Workplaces ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	
Outworkers	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Public Conveniences	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Theatres and Places of Enter- tainment	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Refuse Collection	12	—	—	—	—	—	
Refuse Disposal (Tips, &c.) ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Smoke Observations	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Schools	4	1	1	—	1	—	
Shops	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous... ..	19	—	—	—	—	—	
Ditches and Watercourses ...	5	1	1	1	—	—	
Infectious Disease Enquiries, Disinfections, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	
HOUSING.							
Number of Houses Inspected under Public Health Acts ...	143	8	6	13	1	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	190	—	—	—	—	—	
Number of Houses Inspected under Housing Acts	34	3	14	14	3	3	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	56	—	—	—	—	—	
OVERCROWDING							
Number of Houses Inspected ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	
VERMINOUS PREMISES.							
Number of Houses Inspected ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	
INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD.							
Total Meat Inspection Visits ...	170	—	—	—	—	—	
Bakehouses	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Cowsheds, Dairies & Milkshops	40	—	—	—	—	—	
Ice Cream Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous Food Visits... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Street Vendors & Hawkers Carts	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits in connection with Sampling—Milk... ..	37	—	—	—	—	—	
Water	8	—	—	—	—	—	
	883	13	22	28	5	3	
Total Building Inspections... ..	497	—	2	2	—	—	
(for details see page 18)	1380	13	24	30	5	3	

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.—Regular supervision of shops and offices in the district was maintained but no action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v) CAMPING SITES.—There are no camping sites in the area and no licences issued under Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—All factory chimneys in the area were from time to time observed, and in one case definite improvements were made in connection with a bakery chimney.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (1) Three privately-owned houses were found to be infested.
- (2) In each case fumigation was carried out by the Hydrogen Cyanide method by a contractor.
- (3) It has not been found necessary to disinfect the belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses.

4.—SCHOOLS.—The sanitary conditions and water supply of schools are generally satisfactory. There is one denominational school in Sandy Lane where there is an undesirable trough closet. The question of conversion was considered but this, for various reasons, was deferred.

Action taken in respect of Infectious Diseases among School Children. School returns are regularly scrutinised and visits were made by the Medical Officer when definite outbreaks occurred. There was no School closure during the year though cases of chickenpox and mumps were, at times, fairly numerous.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Under the stress of war conditions, housing inspections were limited but all complaints were investigated. Nevertheless, 246 inspections were made and 20 informal and 11 statutory notices served, 27 of which were complied with.

Legal proceedings were taken in respect of three houses in the Heatley Ward, and repairs were subsequently effected in accordance with the "abatement" orders.

Besides the introduction of evacuees (referred to in detail at the end of this report), other exigencies of the War caused the local population to be greatly increased. As is always the

case, the greater the population the greater call on the Sanitary Department. The question of overcrowding was carefully watched, also the adequacy of sanitary conveniences, refuse removal, &c. Whilst there is no evidence of the shortage of houses, the rents required are in many cases higher than the tenants can really afford to pay.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.
OVERCROWDING.

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	0
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	0
(b)—Number of new cases of evercrowding reported during the year	0
(c)—Number of cases relieved during the year	2
Number of persons concerned in such cases	21
(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	none

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—All farms and dairies were inspected
RETAILERS AND PRODUCERS.

Milk retailers (including producer-retailers) ...	25
Producers (total)	32

Special Designations.

“Tuberculin Tested” Producers	2
“Accredited” Producers	19

Thirteen samples of Graded Milk were taken under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936, of which seven were satisfactory to the Methylene Blue Test and four to the Coliform Test.

One sample of Pasteurised and one of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken in course of distribution. Both were satisfactory.

SAMPLES OF MILK EXAMINED FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

Bulk samples collected at the farm ... 29
 Number reported positive 2

SUMMARY OF MILK SAMPLING FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI, 1928-39.

Year.			Number of Samples.	Number Positive.	Percentage Positive.
1928	...	...	32	7	22.0
1929	...	...	34	2	6.0
1930	...	...	33	1	3.0
1931	...	...	40	7	17.5
1932	...	...	44	3	7.0
1933	...	...	46	1	2.1
1934	...	...	48	3	6.3
1935	...	...	34	1	3.0
1936	...	...	26	0	0.0
1937	...	...	47	2	4.25
1938	...	...	30	1	3.33
1939	...	...	29	2	6.90

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—All slaughter-houses, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared were from time to time inspected.

(b) CARCASSES INSPECTED AND MEAT SEIZED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number inspected	122	38	19	454	90
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	3	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3.3%	—	—	0.66%	—
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u> Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	8	9	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.5%	23.68%	—	—	1.11%

(c) PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES.

The undermentioned particulars of samples obtained in the Lymm Urban District during 1939 have been supplied by the courtesy of Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector of the County Weights and Measures Department.

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Butter	1	—
Cheese :.....	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Lard	1	—
Milk	10	—
Seidlitz Powders	1	—
Salt	1	—
	<u>17</u>	<u>—</u>

These results are highly satisfactory especially in regard to milk samples.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The prevalence of notifiable diseases was low, only 19 cases against 20 the previous year. The average for the previous ten years was 30. There was nothing noteworthy as to source or spread of infection.

Cases of chickenpox and mumps were at times fairly numerous.

The Council provides free of cost serum for artificial immunisation against diphtheria.

The question of immunisation at special clinics was under consideration when War came on, and was deferred in consequence.

The phrophylactic issued to general practitioners was Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

No arrangements have yet been made for the typing of pneumococi.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	4	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Abortus Fever	1	—	—

AGE GROUPS OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Hospital		Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages	Years												Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District	
		Under 1	Years													
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	10	—	1	1	—	3	4	—	1	—	—	—	4	—		
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—		
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Abortus	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—		
TOTALS	19	0	1	1	1	4	4	0	2	4	2	0	*5	—		

[2]

*In addition, two were admitted for observation but not subsequently notified, and one evacuee Chicken Pox, cost of which were borne by Stretford Borough Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	1	2	—	2	—	1	—
	5		2		2		1	

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was nil.

The notification of tuberculosis in the district is efficient.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

No action required during the year regarding tuberculosis employees.

SECTION G.—FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Whilst the hitherto usual Home Office Form 572 has been discontinued, the following action was taken during the year, viz. :—

- (1) Four certificates were issued calling for increased means of escape in case of fire, all of which were complied with.
- (2) Observations on the sanitary conditions and other matters were made but no action was required.

REPORT ON EVACUATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions of the District were profoundly altered during the last four months of the year owing to the Government Evacuation Scheme, and it is desirable to discuss briefly the effects, if any, on the general health of the population by this alteration of the domestic life of the community.

Under the Government Scheme this District was asked to make provision for 1,500 evacuees.

A strong body of ladies was got together and under the leadership of a very capable Chief Billeting Officer, the work was undertaken and very successfully carried out.

A census of all available spare rooms in every house in the District had to be taken which, it will be realised, was a matter of considerable magnitude and one requiring much tact on the part of those engaged on the work. Though no one was compelled to undertake to house those seeking greater safety it will, for all time, stand to the credit of Lymm people that accommodation was arranged for the numbers allocated to the District.

Questions such as the immediate provision for receiving, feeding, general care of and transport to billets, had to be considered.

A further matter which had to be borne in mind was the medical examination of those received in order to segregate any possible infectious cases and to consider the placing of crippled, sick or disabled persons.

Three Reception Centres were arranged, viz., Dingle Cafe, the Cinema and the Congregational School, Brookfield Road, additional sanitary conveniences had to be added to the latter.

Local doctors willingly offered to assist in the medical examination, and one or more trained nurses were present at each centre in addition to many others who had First Aid Certificates.

On Thursday, August 31st, news was received that we were to expect 857 evacuees of school age from Stretford the following day, September 1st, with a further contingent of mothers and younger children on September 2nd.

The actual number of evacuees received was as follows :—

	Children	Mothers	Staff
Sept. 1st	648 children of school age		34
„ 2nd	205 children	99	
„ 16th	16 children		
„ 17th	1 child		
„ 18th	2 children		
„ 21st	1 child		
Total	873 children	99 mothers	34 staff

As a result of the medical examination, 14 children with various ailments making it unreasonable to ask any householder to accept them were found. These included 2 cases (brothers) of mumps, and the remainder were scabies, psoriasis, impetigo and ringworm.

Temporary accommodation was provided for these cases in the Annexe of Beech House, kindly lent by the owner. It was necessary to find larger premises with provision for separating cases and sexes, and also provide accommodation for a matron and night nurse.

Possession was taken, after representation to the owners, of "High Bank," Brookfield Road, an empty house. Voluntary workers of the W.V.S. cleaned the house throughout, and on September 8th the patients were transferred from Beech House. The Ministry of Health confirmed the action of taking possession of "High Bank."

A lady medical missionary, who was residing temporarily in the district, kindly offered her help, and took charge of the hospital until she left the district, after giving three months most acceptable service.

As the number of cases dwindled owing to recoveries and the return to Stretford of many of the evacuees, the need for a hospital disappeared, and the A.R.P. Committee decided, after consultation with the District Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health, to close it down on December 21st. Arrangements were made with the Cheadle and Gatley Urban District Council to take any cases which could not be treated in their homes.

HEALTH OF EVACUEES.—The health of evacuees was generally good and the call on medical practitioners was less than might have been expected. The more open country life than that to which the majority had been accustomed undoubtedly benefitted the children, a fact which was very marked in many cases.

Difficulties in altering undesirable habits and manners were experienced in a number of cases, whilst some, evidently due to lack of good home training, were difficult to handle, as they were unwilling to submit to commonsense discipline. Much patience was required on the part of householders.

The general health of the regular residents did not appear to be much affected by the presence of the evacuees, notwithstanding the fact that two children were convalescent from mumps on arrival and one developed chickenpox two days after arrival. There was no local outbreak of these diseases as all cases were segregated and kept under close supervision. In order to deal with the cases of scabies, impetigo, ringworm and

dirty heads, a special clinic was opened and conducted by the local Health Visitor at first twice a week, later once a week.

Illness of a more or less psychological nature due to the unnatural stress on householders of having to look after strangers was in evidence in a number of cases. Apart from this there was little that was abnormal to report.

That the general health remained good is all the more remarkable when the following facts are remembered :—(1) that many more houses were filled up to their maximum limit short of overcrowding, and unexpected demands were made on the sanitary and washing accommodation ; (2) that nearly 1,000 extra people were added to the population for a time ; (3) that the great majority were children, who are most susceptible to infectious diseases if not to other diseases ; (4) that the schools were overcrowded and were in use for longer periods than usual each day, local children attending for a half day and the evacuees occupying the same rooms for the other half day. The greater the number of different children there are who enter a room each day, the chance of diseases being introduced is greater than if the same children attended morning and afternoon.

There were, however, some compensations, namely :—(1) the fact that children only attended school for half a day meant that they had more time in the fresh air ; (2) that the weather during September, October and part of November was exceptionally fine, bright and clear, thus giving greater opportunity for absorbing the natural disease-preventing ultra violet rays of the sun ; (3) most of the children were very happy, the discontented ones returned home early. The fact that these tremendously altered conditions of scholastic and family life did not appreciably affect the general health is very satisfactory. Incidentally, many of the visiting children improved greatly in health and vigour.

It is to be hoped that such a “trek” will never again become necessary, but if it should, these observations may be useful.

(Signed) JAMES BENNETT,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT.

Year ended 31st December, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LYMM.

Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report relating to Sanitary and Public Health work carried out in the Urban District of Lymm during the year ended 31st December, 1939, together with the report of the Building Inspector.

Details are embodied in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, to which reference can be made, in order to bring our report into line with the Ministry of Health Circular 1961. These are dealt with in the following order :—

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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(ii) Drainage and Sewerage	6
2. Rivers and Streams	6
3. (i) Closet Accommodation	6
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(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area	7
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(v) Camping Sites	8
(vi) Smoke Abatement	8
(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools	8
(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs	8
4. Schools	8

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

BUILDING BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Buildings completed during 1939		Plans submitted 1939	
Semi-detached houses	5	Terrace houses	1
Detached houses ...	6	Detached houses ...	5
Detached houses with		Semi-detached houses	3
garages	3	Garages (brick)	2
Garages	9	Dairies and Cowsheds	1
Farm Buildings ...	1	Temporary Buildings...	13
Business Premises ...	2	Business Premises ...	3
Improved or additional		Miscellaneous	7
Sanitary Accom-		Drainage	3
modation	1		
Miscellaneous	11		
	—		—
	38		39
	—		—

Two plans were refused under the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.

Description	No. of Inspections	Notices served regarding contraventions of byelaws
General Inspections including foundations, footings, damp-proof course and site concrete	114	2
Drainage of new premises	32	—
Visits to Council houses regarding com- plaints of defects and inspection of repairs... ..	351	—
Survey of electrical installations and fittings in Council houses	—	—
	—	—
	497	2
	—	—

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

	Page
(a) Milk Supply	9
(b) Meat and Other Foods	9
(c) Adulteration, &c.	11

The year 1939 has been notable in the main for its disturbance of the normal routine of the Public Health Department occasioned by the pressing demands of the Air Raid Precautions Services, Public Air Raid Shelters, &c.

Normal housing work has been somewhat restricted by the passing of the Housing (Emergency Powers) Act, 1939, the import of which is that Local Authorities were to avoid taking any steps which would lead to the actual demolition of old properties as, in view of possible attacks from the air, it was clearly desirable that the existing supply of accommodation should not be diminished. The Act also gives power to the Local Authority to carry out "first-aid" repairs in all urgent cases, the cost of any such works to be registered as a charge on the premises recoverable at the end of hostilities.

Similar provisions have been made applicable to buildings and plant of vital importance, e.g., hospitals, first-air posts, schools, colliery buildings, bakeries, warehouses, &c., by the passing of the Essential Buildings and Plant (Repair of War Damage) Act, 1939.

Tenants under leases containing obligations to repair are given some relief by the Landlord and Tenant (War Damage) Act, 1939, which enables the tenant to disclaim the lease, rent not being payable whilst the property is unusable.

On October 1st, the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into operation and consolidated food legislation, amended and replaced many provisions, some dating back to the 16th century.

Regulations made under repealed enactments remain in force and the Ministry of Health is given power to make additional regulations.

The compulsory registration of premises where food is prepared for sale, with power to refuse or cancel registration, is of great importance in Public Health legislation, giving as it does a greater measure of control over this class of premises.

As in previous years, there has again been close co-operation with all departments of the Council. We gratefully acknowledge the friendly and valuable help of other officials and their staffs, and also the helpfulness of the members of the Council.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

D. MORT,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

J. CARTER,

Sanitary and Building Inspector.

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